

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS
SUPREME COURT OF ARKANSAS
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**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS TO BEGIN
IMPLEMENTING E-FILING IN PULASKI CIRCUIT COURTS**

The Arkansas Supreme Court Committee on Automation voted unanimously last Friday to accept an electronic filing proposal by Virginia-based ACS/Tybera. The Administrative Office of the Courts has begun final contract negotiations, and the project is expected to begin within two-to-three months in Pulaski County Circuit Court.

"Yet again, we are moving forward on all fronts with the use of technology, and I applaud everyone's efforts in doing so," said Associate Justice Paul Danielson. "E-filing will provide our courts with a secure, cost-effective system that will be convenient for both the courts and the litigants, as well as allow the courts of this state to function more efficiently." Danielson is chairman of the Court's Pilot Program for Electronic Filing.

Arkansas Supreme Court Administrative Order 21 authorized the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) to develop or contract with a vendor for a statewide electronic filing system for Arkansas courts. On August 27, 2010, the AOC issued a Request for Proposals for a Statewide Electronic Filing System. The AOC sought proposals from qualified firms to provide a commercial off-the-shelf electronic filing system for statewide implementation in the courts of Arkansas. The RFP required that the system have the proven capability of handling all types of cases including small claims, traffic, criminal, civil, probate, juvenile, and domestic relations. It was also required that the system must have been successfully implemented at limited, general, and appellate levels of a multi-jurisdictional court system.

On September 30, 2010, four proposals were submitted in response to the RFP; however, one response was untimely and was not considered. The three proposals considered were submitted by Intresys, Vista Solutions Group, and a joint proposal by Tybera and ACS a Xerox Company. The proposals were analyzed based on proposed cost; vendor information; project plan and methodology; system features; and customer interviews.

At the Automation Committee meeting, members considered the proposals and voted unanimously to allow the AOC to begin contract negotiations with Tybera/ACS. The ACS/Tybera proposal was for a \$1.5 million contract over two years that included a one-time statewide license for \$725,550; services to integrate the Tybera electronic filing software with the ACS Contexte Case Management System and a document management system for \$183,750; professional services for pilot implementation of the system in Pulaski County Circuit Court for \$449,625; and ongoing support and monitoring for a cost of \$168,110.

"Our technology and expertise will give the AOC the tools it needs to be more efficient and save people time and money," said Joseph Doherty, executive vice president and group president, ACS Government Solutions. "Working closely with the AOC, we'll help them achieve their vision of an electronic filing system that eliminates an administrative burden and enables the courts to maximize its day-to-day operations."

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The Tybera eFlex electronic filing solution has been successfully implemented in numerous courts, including the Nevada Supreme Court, Iowa and North Carolina, Orange County, Florida; and it has been successfully implemented and integrated with the Contexte Case Management System in Washoe County, Nevada and Delaware. Eight courts in Arkansas are using Contexte, and the AOC is currently implementing the case management system in three more. Other courts are in line for implementation in the coming year.

ACS/Tybera proposed a phased implementation in a pilot court with a go-live for electronic filing in civil cases eight months after entering into a contract. At the conclusion of each phase, the AOC will then be able to implement electronic filing in other courts that are using Contexte. As the AOC continues to implement Contexte in Arkansas courts, electronic filing will be an available option as each court is brought into the statewide system.

With the Automation Committee's endorsement, the AOC has begun final contract negotiations with ACS/Tybera for acquisition and implementation of the electronic filing solution. The implementation of electronic filing will be another significant milestone in the Arkansas Supreme Court's effort to bring 21st century technology to Arkansas courts.

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